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CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS, JA., MD.

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS Washington, D.C. 20510

CHIEF COURSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

September 15, 1976

The Honorable George Bush Director of Central Intelligence Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bush:

This is in response to your letter of September 15, 1976, concerning language in the report of the committee of conference on the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill, 1977, with regard to oversight of the intelligence community (Title VIII).

The Senate Committee on Appropriations agrees that your understanding of the report language is reasonable and proper and is reassured by your commitment to objectivity and independence in the functions of the Intelligence Community Staff and the National Foreign Intelligence Board

The Committee appreciates the nature of the Intelligence Community Staff and operations and the composition and function of the National Foreign Intelligence Board and understands that personnel support and assistance of a wide variety from intelligence community organizations will be required for which reimbursement need not be provided.

This Committee intends that the size of the Intelligence Community Staff be kept to an absolute minimum and will be watching with interest. There may be times when the Chairman, or a member of the Committee on Foreign Intelligence requires assistance from a staff member who is not a full time Intelligence Community Staff assistant and not paid from the appropriation in the aforementioned title of the bill. This procedure, however, is not to be used as a means for increasing the size of the Intelligence Community Staff or eroding its "policy independence."

With kind regards, I am

Sincarely,

Chairman

JLM:mjm

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